

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Yasushi Sasagawa
Serial No. : 09/696,674
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Group Art Unit : 2667
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts and/or explanations are annexed thereto explaining the relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to

allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

As this statement is being filed together with an RCE, no fee is due.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Nathan D. Weber /
Nathan D. Weber
Reg. No. 50,958

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-8800

Fax: (212) 940-8986

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